

until about the middle of October, when a decided diminution begins to take place. Sometimes large, but more generally small flocks are seen passing at a considerable height overhead, and the frequenters of the brakes and turnip-fields grow scarcer. By the end of November, hardly an example ordinarily appears. It is true that sometimes, even in severe weather, an individual or so may be found here and there, leading a solitary life in some sheltered hedge-bottom or thick plantation which may afford conditions of existence more favourable than are elsewhere to be met with; but this is quite an exceptional occurrence. Towards the end of January or beginning of February, their return commences. They reappear at first slowly and singly; but as spring advances, in considerable abundance and without interruption, until, in the height of the breeding-season, they by far outnumber their more stay-at-home cousins the Blackbirds.

I do not suppose for a moment that these facts are similar all over England; indeed the testimony of many of my friends assures me to the contrary. Still I am induced to think that by constant and accurate observers some migratory tendency is to be detected in other districts; and as we are often told that the subject of British ornithology is exhausted (an assertion I much doubt), I venture to call the attention of naturalists to this point as one on which it certainly cannot be said at present that we have "too much light."

Elveden, December 1859.

IX.—*Recent Ornithological Publications.*

1. ENGLISH PUBLICATIONS.

THE second part of the 'Proceedings' of the Zoological Society for this year contains all the papers read up to the end of the last meeting before the summer vacation, amongst which are many on ornithology, by Dr. Adams, Mr. Bartlett, Dr. Bennett, and Messrs. Gould, G. R. Gray, and Selater. The Illustrations of Birds are four in number, all drawn by Wolf.

The December number of the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History' (vol. iv. p. 467) records the occurrence on the

coast of Devonshire of a species of Gull new to Great Britain—*Larus ichthyaëtus* of Pallas. This “giant of the Black-headed Gulls was shot by a boatman, in the river off Exmouth, about the end of May or beginning of June last.” The specimen is now in the possession of F. W. L. Ross, Esq., who contributes the notice to the ‘Annals.’ This bird is common in the Caspian, according to Pallas. Did it come here in company with the flock of Pallas’s Sand-grouse, which arrived from nearly the same country about the same time?

Sir James Emerson Tennent’s excellent volumes on Ceylon* give a well-written and interesting sketch of the Ornithology, as of the other branches of Natural History of that island. The author does not appear to have been acquainted with Dr. Hartlaub’s paper in Cabanis’ ‘Journal für Ornithologie’ (1854, p. 151), where a good *résumé* of our knowledge of Ceylonese ornithology has already been given; but he draws his results directly from the labours of Dr. Templeton, Mr. E. L. Layard, and Dr. Kelaart, on whose researches Dr. Hartlaub also founded his notice, and to whose exertions we owe the present comparatively perfect knowledge which we possess of the *Avifauna* of Ceylon.

“Of the *birds* of the island,” says Sir James Emerson Tennent, “upwards of 320 species have been indicated, for which we are indebted to the persevering labours of Dr. Templeton, Dr. Kelaart, and Mr. Layard; but many yet remain to be identified. In fact, to the eye of the stranger their prodigious numbers, and especially the myriads of water-fowl which, notwithstanding the presence of the Crocodiles, people the lakes and marshes in the eastern provinces, form one of the marvels of Ceylon.

“In the glory of their plumage the birds of the interior are surpassed by those of South America; and the melody of their song will bear no comparison with that of the warblers of Europe: but the want of brilliancy is compensated by their singular grace of form, and the absence of prolonged and modulated

* Ceylon: an account of the Island, Physical, Historical, and Topographical, with Notices of its Natural History, Antiquities, and Productions. By Sir James Emerson Tennent, K.C.S., LL.D. London, 1859, 2 vols. 8vo.

harmony by the rich and melodious tones of their clear and musical calls. In the elevations of the Kandyan country there are a few, such as the Robin of Neura-ellia (*Pratincola atrata*, Kelaart) and the Long-tailed Thrush (*Copsychus macrurus*), whose song rivals that of their European namesakes; but, far beyond the attraction of their notes, the traveller rejoices in the flute-like voices of the Oriole, the Dayal-bird (*Copsychus saularis*), and some others equally charming, when, at the first dawn of day, they wake the forests with their clear *réveille*.

“It is only on emerging from the dense forests and coming into the vicinity of the lakes and pastures of the low country, that birds become visible in great quantities. In the close jungle one occasionally hears the call of the Coppersmith (*Megalaima indica*), or the strokes of the Great Orange-coloured Woodpecker (*Brachypternus aurantius*) as it beats the decaying trees in search of insects, while clinging to the bark with its finely-pointed claws and leaning for support upon the short stiff feathers of its tail. And on the lofty branches of the higher trees the Hornbill (*Buceros pica*), with its enormous double casque, sits, to watch the motions of the tiny reptiles and smaller birds on which it preys, tossing them into the air when seized, and catching them in its gigantic mandibles as they fall.”

As we emerge from the deep shade and approach “the park-like openings on the verge of the low country, quantities of Pea-fowl (*Pavo cristatus*) are to be found, either feeding amongst the seeds and nuts in the long grass, or sunning themselves on the branches of the surrounding trees. Nothing to be met with in England can give an idea either of the size or magnificence of this matchless bird when seen in his native solitudes. Here he generally selects some projecting branch from which his plumage may hang free of foliage; and if there be a dead and leafless bough, he is certain to choose it for his resting-place, whence he droops his wings and suspends his gorgeous train, or spreads it in the morning sun to drive off the damps and dews of the night.

“In some of the unfrequented portions of the eastern province, to which Europeans rarely resort, and where the Pea-fowl are unmolested by the natives, their number is so extraordinary

that, regarded as game, it ceases to be 'sport' to destroy them, and their cries at early morning are so tumultuous and incessant as to banish sleep and amount to an actual inconvenience. Their flesh is excellent when served up hot; but when cold, it contracts a reddish and disagreeable tinge, and is said to be indigestible.

"But of all, the most astonishing in point of multitude, as well as the most interesting from their endless variety, are the myriads of aquatic birds and Waders which frequent the lakes and watercourses, especially those along the coast near Balticaloa, between the mainland and the sand-formations of the shore, and those which resort to the innumerable salt-marshes and lagoons to the south of Trincomalie. These, and the profusion of perching-birds—flycatchers, finches, and thrushes—which appear in the open country, afford sufficient quarry for the raptorial and predatory species—eagles, hawks, and falcons—whose daring sweeps and effortless undulations are striking objects in a cloudless sky."

Messrs. Freeman and Salvin's 'Falconry'* does not perhaps come strictly within the definition of an Ornithological work; but we are sure that many of our readers will be glad to have their attention called to it. We were not aware that cormorant fishing had been successfully revived in these latter days as well as hawking!

We do not presume to enter here upon a criticism of Mr. Darwin's learned Essay 'On the Origin of Species†'; but we mention it as a book which must be read with pleasure by every naturalist, whether he may participate in the author's views or not, as a most valuable and interesting contribution to our knowledge of an important but difficult and generally avoided subject. One observation, however, we beg leave to offer, namely that, should Mr. Darwin's views be well founded, it by

* Falconry, its Claims, History, and Practice. By G. E. Freeman and F. H. Salvin. To which are added, Remarks on Training the Otter and the Cormorant. London, 1859, 1 vol. 8vo.

† On the Origin of Species by means of Natural Selection. By Charles Darwin, M.A., &c. London, 1859, 1 vol.

no means follows that we should consider species as otherwise than "finitely" invariable. Specific differences, if produced by the ordinary laws of generation, can only be arrived at at the end of series of generations, which may be supposed for all intents and purposes to be infinite. The adoption of Mr. Darwin's views should therefore by no means discourage naturalists from the great work of the differentiation of species. And, whatever amount of success we are inclined to allow to the work, we must all, I think, allow that Mr. Darwin's theory of "natural selection" is the only really philosophical attempt which has been made to explain one of the most anomalous phenomena in nature—the violation of its ordinary laws caused by the *continuous* introduction into the world of new forms of animated life.

Dr. Adams and Dr. A. L. Adams have reprinted, "with a few verbal alterations," a paper read at the late meeting of the British Association in Aberdeen, "On Ornithology as a branch of liberal Education*," containing notes on all the wild birds which have been discovered in Banchory Ternan by the former, with remarks upon such of them as have been found in India by the latter gentleman.

Mr. Henry Stevenson of Norwich has kindly lent us the 'Supplement to the China Mail,' No. 670, published at Hong-kong, on the 17th December, 1857. It contains an article read by Mr. Swinhoe at a meeting of the Literary and Scientific Society of Amoy, entitled "A few remarks on the Fauna of Amoy," which was previously unknown to us. There are some notices here given of the habits of the birds; but Mr. Swinhoe's account of the Ornithology of Amoy, which we have the pleasure of publishing in our present Number, is in every way more perfect.

To Mr. Stevenson we are also indebted for the perusal of Mr. Swinhoe's "Narrative of a visit to the island of Formosa," published in the 'Journal of the North China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society.' Several birds are mentioned as having been observed—*Alauda minuta*, *Sterna caspia* and *S. minuta*, *Oriolus sinensis*, *Dicrurus malabaricus*, *Hirundo daurica*, and species of

* Aberdeen, 1859, 8vo. pp. 36.

Pomatorhinus, *Hydrochelidon*, *Centropus*, and *Cinclus*. We hope that Mr. Swinhoe may be induced to supply this Journal with a more perfect account of the birds of this little-known island, and that he will be able to tell us whether Dr. Pucheran* is correct in stating that the curious Parrot, *Dasyptilus fulgidus*, is found there. The general character of the ornithology would lead us to doubt the presence of a Parrot in this locality.

Mr. Blyth's "Report" for May, 1859, of the additions made to the Museum of the Asiatic Society of Calcutta, published in the 'Journal' of that Society (for an early copy of which we are much indebted to the author), contains several notices relating to Birds. The species from the Andamans have already been mentioned in Mr. Blyth's letter (vol. i. p. 465; see also *infra*, p. 99). The Burmese Kestrel is *Tinnunculus saturatus*,—not '*atratus*,' as we had given it in 'The Ibis,' vol. i. p. 211. Mr. Blyth now distinguishes his *Macrorhamphus semipalmatus* of India not only specifically but generically from the North American *M. griseus*, under the title *Pseudoscolopax*; and states, as the result of an examination of 'a fine adult example of a British Peregrine,' that it "quite bears out the opinion of Prince Bonaparte, Mr. Gould, and others, that the *Bauri* Falcon of India should be recognized as distinct, by the name *Falco calidus*, Latham. A glance suffices to distinguish them."

The Third Number of Mr. Eyton's 'Osteologia Avium' has been delivered to the subscribers. The letter-press finishes the second order, denominated by Mr. Eyton *Volitores* (*Volatores*?), which embraces the *Trochilidae* and *Cypselidae*, and commences the third order, *Omnivores* (*Omnivora*?).

The last three numbers of 'The Zoologist' for 1859 contain (pp. 6709 and 6761) a continuation of Mr. Osburn's "Notes on the Mountain-Birds of Jamaica," in which he again mentions the Black Banana-bird (*Nesopsar nigerrimus*), and enters at length upon the habits of the Swifts and Swallows of those regions. Mr. Swinhoe's "Description of the small Chinese Lark" (p. 6723),

* Rev. et Mag. de Zool. 1853, p. 156.

which he proposes to name *Alauda calivox*, will also be read with much interest.

A new edition of "The 'Zoologist' List of Birds observed in Great Britain and Ireland"* is "compiled from the third edition of Yarrell's British Birds," and, according to the author, "comprises all the additions and corrections necessary up to the 1st of November, 1859."† As it is "particularly requested that ornithologists will adopt the names here employed," it is perhaps only reasonable that we, who do not adopt them, should shortly state our reasons for declining to comply with Mr. Newman's demands, and for exciting our brother naturalists to join us in our rebellion.

In the first place, the scientific nomenclature of this list is by no means in accordance with Yarrell's (as witness *FALCO palumbarius* and *FALCO milvus*); it is also entirely arbitrary as regards the adoption or non-adoption of generic divisions; and, with respect to the names of species, the "golden rule of priority" is seldom, if ever, attended to. Several species are *included* which are omitted by Yarrell,—*e. g.* the "Greenland Falcon," "Bimaculated Duck," "Paget's Pochard," and "Swift Tern." Two species at least included by Yarrell are *omitted*—Schinz's Sandpiper‡ and "The American Scaup;" the former resting satisfactorily on two specimens mentioned by Mr. Yarrell and on a third recorded in 'The Zoologist,' p. 6537 (now in Mr. J. H. Gurney's collection), and the latter on an example in Mr. Tindall's collection, referred to by Mr. Yarrell, and originally recorded in 'The Zoologist' (p. 4631). The North American Stint (*Tringa pusilla*, L.) is *included*, we suppose as being mentioned in Mr. Yarrell's preface; but the Mottled Owl (*Strix asio*, L.), though mentioned in the same place, is *omitted*.

The "Little Owl" is called "*Strix passerina*, Lth., not Ln.," with a note that "this bird is the *Strix nudipes* of NILLSON" (*sic*). [It ought to be Nilsson.] Linnæus's unobjectionable name, *Strix noctua* (which also has the priority), is thus discarded

* London, 1859, one sheet.

† See advertisement in 'The Zoologist' for December 1859.

‡ *Tringa schinzii*, Bp. = *T. bonapartii*, Schlegel.

for no assignable reason, and confusion is caused by the citation of two other names which are the peculiar property of two other perfectly distinct species.

Why is "*Sylvia suecica*" marked with a "*", to signify that it is an "accidental or occasional visitor" from Europe, while "*S. turdoides*" and "*S. galactotes*" (it ought to be *galactodes*) (γαλακτώδης; Th. γάλα, -ακτος, *lac*, and εἶδος, *facies*) are left unmarked,—though the former species has occurred at least three times as often as either of the latter?

Picus major is called "Spotted Woodpecker" instead of "Great Spotted Woodpecker"—the omission of the first distinguishing epithet not having the sanction of any British author. The name "Yellow-billed Cuckoo" in the same way is liable to cause mistakes, unless the word "American" be inserted, and its omission also is not warranted by the example of any former writer.

We are left without any information as to the authorities for the names "*Vanellus melanogaster*," "*Himantopus melanopterus*," and "*Phalaropus platyrhynchus*."

The "Esquimaux Curlew," one would suppose, should, from its name, be marked as a straggler from America rather than from Europe,—a supposition strengthened when it is found that only two instances of its occurrence in the Old World have hitherto been recorded. The "Yellow-shanked [!] Sandpiper" merits exactly the same sort of remark. On the other hand, "†Steller's Western Duck" should rather be considered Asiatic. It is known to breed in Siberia, and not in America. Again, the "*Great Auk" was certainly as much a British bird as ever it was a European one. Lastly, the name "White-headed Petrel" is a misnomer as applied to Kuhl's *Procellaria hœsitata*, and properly belongs to an entirely different species. The correct English name for this bird is "The Capped Petrel," given to it by Mr. Alfred Newton, who acted as *accoucheur* on its first introduction into the British fauna (see 'Zoologist,' p. 3693), and afterwards adopted by Mr. Yarrell.

These and such-like criticisms may seem somewhat out of place in a Magazine which (as we are informed by the gentleman who is employed to answer the Naturalists' queries in the 'Field'

Newspaper) is "chiefly devoted to technical descriptions of foreign birds new to science;" but should they meet the eye of him who thus veraciously responds to the question whether there be any Magazine devoted to birds *besides* 'The Zoologist,' we trust that they may induce him to reconsider his reply, and to admit that we sometimes give up our 'technical descriptions' to notice even such unsatisfactory compilations as "The 'Zoologist' List of British Birds."

In the 'Sporting Magazine' for July and September of last year will be found some well-written notices of the haunts and habits of some of the principal Game-birds of the Himalayas, by 'Mountaineer.' They relate to the "Horned Pheasant" (*Tragopan melanocephala*), the "Monall" (*Lophophorus impeyanus*), the "Cocklass" (*Pucrasia macrolopha*), "Cheer" (*Catreus wallichii*), "Kaleege" (*Gallophasis albo-cristatus*), and "Snow Pheasant" (*Tetraogallus himalayensis*).

2. FRENCH PUBLICATIONS

The number of the 'Revue et Magasin de Zoologie' for October contains M. Pucheran's "Observations sur deux espèces de Passereaux originaires des Açores," to which we have already alluded* on their original publication in 'L'Institut.' They are accompanied by a figure of the new Finch, *Fringilla moreleti*. In the same number is the commencement of an Oological article by M. Moquin-Tandon, entitled "Considérations sur les œufs des Oiseaux."

The 'Annales des Sciences Naturelles' for 1859 contain the commencement of an important paper by M. Emile Blanchard, on the Osteology of Birds†, which merits not merely perusal, but attentive study. The introduction gives a general review of the labours of previous writers on this subject. M. Blanchard then goes on to speak of his own labours and of his 'Organisation du règne animal,' in which he has divided the class *Aves* into two orders—*Tropidosternii* and *Homalosternii*, correspond-

* 'The Ibis,' vol. i. p. 322.

† "Recherches sur les caractères ostéologiques des Oiseaux, appliquées à la classification naturelle de ces animaux."

ing with the *Aves carinatæ* and *Aves ratitæ* of Merrem, and gives his reasons for commencing his subject by treating of the *sternum*—without doubt the most characteristic portion of the bird-skeleton. No one can hesitate to agree with M. Blanchard as to the importance of determining how far the external characters of the animals of this class correspond with their osteological structure, and as to the value of the coincidences thus established in guiding us to a truly natural arrangement. It is with much pleasure we find M. Blanchard's attention in France, as well as Mr. Eyton's in our own country, now turned to this much-neglected subject.

The chapters devoted to the examination of the different modifications of the *sternum* of birds follow in order. We give a list of the names of the Linnean genera which head the several sections, by which a general idea of the affinities pointed out by M. Blanchard, as deducible from the examination of the sternum, may be formed. I. FALCO (*Helotarsus* is hardly different from true *Aquila*; *Spilornis* is near *Buteo*, from which also *Milvus* has barely sufficient characters to distinguish it): II. GYPOGERANUS: III. GYPAETUS: IV. VULTUR (*Gypohierax* resembles *Neophron*): V. STRIX (*Bubo* and *Scops* resemble *Otus* and *Brachyotus*): VI. PSITTACUS: VII. FRINGILLA, LOXIA, ALAUDA, PARUS, STURNUS, CORVUS, PARADISEA, CETHIA, MOTACILLA, TURDUS, LANIUS, MUSCICAPA, PIPRA, TANAGRA, and HIRUNDO (all these have a very similar conformation of the sternum; *Paradisea* most resembles *Corvus* and *Garrulus*, as also *Meliphaga*; *Menura* is peculiar): VIII. CYPSELUS: IX. CAPRIMULGUS: X. TROCHILUS: XI. UPUPA and IRRISOR: XII. MEROPS and MOMOTUS: XIII. ALCEDO: XIV. TODUS: XV. GALBULA: XVI. CAPITO and BUCCO: XVII. PICUS and YUNX: XVIII. RAMPHASTOS: XIX. TURACUS: XX. TROGON: XXI. CORACIAS: XXII. CROTOPHAGA and CUCULUS: XXIII. BUCEROS. We may state, in conclusion, that we have the satisfaction of agreeing with M. Blanchard in nearly every affinity here pointed out.

3. GERMAN AND RUSSIAN PUBLICATIONS.

The third number of Cabanis' 'Journal für Ornithologie' contains an article by Dr. H. A. Bernstein, of Gadock in the island

of Java, upon the nests and eggs of certain Javan birds. The account of the nidification of the Tree-Swifts (*Dendrochelidon klecho*) is novel and strange. The nest resembles in form and materials that of the little *Collocalia* or Edible-bird's-nest Swift, but is still *smaller* and *flatter* ! It is a semicircular structure, and is affixed to a small naked horizontal branch high up in a tree, the branch forming the flat side of the nest. The walls, scarcely thicker than parchment, are made of feathers, tree-mosses, and bits of bark, cemented together by the viscous saliva of the bird. The nest, which contains a single perfectly oval egg, is so small, that the bird (as repeatedly observed by Dr. Bernstein) sits upon the branch and only covers it with her belly.

Henicurus leschenaulti builds on the ground, near water, with moss and dead leaves, and lays two eggs, greenish or yellowish-white, spotted with rufous.

We also strongly recommend the perusal of Herr Eug. von Homeyer's communication, "Ueber einige zweifelhafte Arten der europäischen Ornis."

Dr. Bolle will find, in the last Number of our Journal, some remarks by Mr. Salvin (p. 361) confirmatory of his theory of the *oophagy* of the *Rallidæ*. We beg leave also to refer Herr Schüter to our last year's volume for some important contributions to the discussion as to the mode of reproduction of *Oxylophus glandarius*.

The first number of the 'Bulletin de la Société Impériale des Naturalistes de Moscou' for 1859 contains an article* by Baron R. König-Warthaussen, on the nesting of the Warblers of the division *Hypolais*, which will be of interest to European ornithologists. The species treated of as belonging to this group are the following:—(1.) *H. OLIVETORUM*, nests in Greece (Lindermayer and Von der Mühle); (2.) *H. SALICARIA* (*Motacilla hippolais*, Linn.; *H. icterina*, Degland; *H. luscinioides*, Landbek), nests in Würtemberg and Southern Germany, as observed by the author; (3.) *H. CINERASCENS*, Sclys (*H. pallida*, Gerbe; *H. ari-*

* "Zur Fortpflanzungsgeschichte der Spottsänger." Bull. Acad. Nat. xxxii. p. 238.

gonis, Brehm), nests in Spain (A. E. Brehm †): (4.) *H. ELAICA* (*Sylvia elaica*, Lind.; *S. ambigua*, Schlegel; *S. preglüi*, Frauenf.), nests in Greece (Lindermayer): (5.) *H. PALLIDA* (*S. pallida*, Ehrenb.), nests in Nubia (Heuglin): 6. *H. POLYGLOTTA* (*S. polyglotta*, Vieill.), nidification unknown.

The notes on *H. pallida* (of which species little was before known) are somewhat as follows:—

“The I. R. Austrian Consul at Chartoum in the Sudan (Hofrath Dr. Th. von Heuglin) found this bird, which is also an inhabitant of Syria, all the year through in N.E. Africa. The skins collected by him in Egypt, as well as his observations on its habits, agree fully with Ehrenberg’s. A variety with a stronger beak was found further southwards, in Nubia.”

“He, as well as Blasius, believes in the possibility of the identity of this species with the Grecian *H. elaica*; but I do not hesitate to consider them as different for the present, because the question is not yet settled, and, moreover, two Egyptian nests, each with four eggs (for which, as well as for the observations here given, I have to thank Dr. Heuglin’s kindness), are somewhat different from those of the latter species, whether specifically or climatically need not at present be settled.”

“This Warbler, which, not quite properly (in the same way as *H. olivetorum* by Keyserling and Blasius), and chiefly because of its habits, was formerly united to the Reed-Warblers, delights mostly in water-ditches and reedy thickets. It nests in the hedges of gardens or in the thick Mimosa-bush (*Mimosa nilotica*), if *Arundo donax*, its favourite resort, is not far off.

“The nests are placed from two to fifteen feet high. Both mine are from Cairo itself—from the Espeechia Place.”

After giving an accurate description of the two nests, which were composed of strips of bass and dried stalks mixed with woollen threads and horsehair, and lined with fine tendrils of plants, with some Mimosa-leaves fixed on the outside, the author says of the eggs, of which there were four in each nest, “Their ground-colour is dark violet-grey, sometimes greenish-white; some are sparingly but uniformly spotted with minute freckles

* Confer Dr. A. E. Brehm’s “Cursory observations on the Birds of Spain,” in the ‘Allgem. deutsche naturhist. Zeitung,’ Bd. iii. (1857) p. 467.

of blue-grey and black; others with larger round or irregular blotches, partly obliterated; others again, with a rather light ground and almost entire absence of the bright under-markings, are provided with larger dark red-brown points and obsolete blotches of bright red-brown. In the structure of the shell they come very near those of the preceding (*H. elatica*); yet the granulation of most of them is decidedly more elevated and finer. Keeping this point in view along with their less weight, smaller size, and more greyish ground-colouring, it would not be difficult in most cases to separate the eggs of this African form from those of its Grecian ally."

The same part of the 'Bulletin' contains likewise (p. 24) an "Esquisse de l'Histoire naturelle de Kamienietz, Podolski, par Gustave Belke," in the course of which some account of the birds of this district of Podolia is given. There seems not much noticeable, except perhaps that *Otis tarda*, "très commune et en grande quantité, reste chez nous en hiver."

4. AMERICAN PUBLICATIONS.

The 'Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia,' which we have received up to p. 270 of last year's volume, contain, besides Mr. J. Xantus's Catalogue of Birds collected near Fort Teyon, California (p. 189), already noticed, a paper by Dr. T. Charlton Henry, on the Birds of New Mexico (p. 104), and a continuation of Mr. Cassin's valuable "Catalogue of Birds collected on the rivers Camma and Ogobai, Western Africa, by Mr. P. B. Du Chaillu in 1858, with notes and descriptions of new species" (pp. 133 and 172). The total number of species enumerated in this list is 238. The new birds now characterized are *Hyphantornis cinctus* and *Columba uncinata*. There are many others of great interest.

To Professor Baird's kindness we are indebted for early copies of a very interesting communication made to the Boston Society of Natural History, by Dr. Henry Bryant, entitled, "A List of Birds seen at the Bahamas from Jan. 20 to May 14, 1859, with descriptions of new or little-known species."* Dr. Bryant gives

* See Proc. Boston Soc. N. H. vii. p. 102.

many notes on the habits and nidification of the birds of these islands—which have, as far as we know, never been before investigated by a naturalist. We are not surprised at his meeting with species apparently undescribed. The Humming-bird, *Trochilus bahamensis*, does not, however, fall into that category, as it is certainly *Trochilus evelynæ* (Proc. Zool. Soc. 1847, p. 44), belonging to the genus or section *Thaumastura*. Had the tail of the male of this species really only *eight* feathers, as supposed by Dr. Bryant, we should consider it even more *wonderful* than is indicated by the generic name *Thaumastura*; for we do not at present recollect any exception to the normal number of ten rectrices in the *Trochilidæ*. But a careful examination will, we have little doubt, prove that the two medial rectrices, though abnormally diminutive, are not altogether wanting.

The other species described as new are *Empidonax bahamensis*, *Hirundo cyaneoviridis* (allied to Gosse's *H. euchrysea* of Jamaica), *Laniovireo crassirostris*, and *Mimus bahamensis* (probably the same as Cabanis's *M. gundlachii*). The accounts of the breeding of *Sula fiber* and *Phaëthon flavirostris* are of much interest.

X.—*Notices, Letters, Extracts from Correspondence, &c.*

IT is with much regret that we commence our issue of the Second Volume of 'The Ibis' with the announcement of the death of one of the original promoters of our Journal, and a most valued contributor to its pages. Our friend and fellow-labourer John Wolley, having been in declining health for several months, died on the 20th of November last, at the early age of 36 years, leaving a vacancy in the number of the British Ornithologists' Union, which it will be very difficult to fill up. Of Mr. Wolley's career as a naturalist, and of his many brilliant discoveries and laborious explorations in various parts of the world in pursuit of his favourite science, we hope, with the kind assistance of a gentleman who is well acquainted with many of the events of his short though active life, to give some account in our next Number.